

TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL

From the Public Health Nursing Point of View

Objective

Reduce the opportunities for the spread of tuberculosis.

Need for Medically Approved Policies and Procedures

Emphasis is placed on the importance of having up-to-date, written local medical directions which serve as policies and procedures in tuberculosis control. Staff members may then determine if they need additional resource materials, some of which are listed in the bibliography at the end of this chapter. However, in the absence of existing policies and procedures, the following suggestions may be of help. In any event, patients should be considered on an individual basis.

Basic Information for Planning Activities and Casefinding

1. Up-to-date scientific information about the epidemiology of tuberculosis as a disease, control measures, including current local and State recommendations, epidemiological procedures and treatment policies.
2. Current classification of the disease. "Diagnostic Standards and Classification of Tuberculosis and Other Mycobacterial Diseases", revised 1974, is available through local Lung Associations.
3. Knowledge of the problem in the community and State (refer to most recent morbidity statistics reports).
4. Purpose and use of the Tuberculosis Register.
5. Medical services available to patients, including current policies and regulations at hospitals accepting tuberculosis patients and through local chest clinics.
6. Social and rehabilitative resources available to patients and families in need of such assistance.
7. Appropriate health education approaches and techniques necessary for community action in tuberculosis control.

Nursing Priorities

It is recommended that (1) cases on drugs who have a hypersensitivity to their drugs, (2) unhospitalized drug resistant cases, and (3) unhospitalized communicable cases should receive top priority attention, followed by, (4) close contact identification and investigation, and (5) drug monitoring.

Case Management

1. Facilitate prompt medical evaluation, including need for hospitalization and/or any other medical directions.